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Federal election 2019 roundup: NDP not happy about People's Party debate invitation

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

September 17, 2019 Tuesday

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Section: ELECTION 2019

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Body

Day seven of the 2019 federal election begins with Justin Trudeau making an early announcement about maternity benefits in St. John's. In this live story, we'll be tracking the campaign news as it happens.

4:00 p.m. - The race is still a dead heat

The Nanos nightly tracking polling numbers continue to show a statistical tie(<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.47/823.910.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-1445-CTV-Globe-ELXN-Ballot-Ending-September-16-2019.pdf>) between the Conservatives and Liberals, with the two parties at 36 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, in voter intention. The NDP has also been consistent at around 15 per cent support.

Nanos also saw "notable negative pressure" for the Green Party, which is down to 7 per cent support.

3:15 p.m. - Singh rides a tractor in Verner

There was a veritable lineup of politicians waiting to plow a small patch of ground at the Verner International Plowing Match in Ontario today. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh finally got his turn after provincial NDP leader Andrea Horwath and Ontario Premier Doug Ford.

Here's the #NDP(https://twitter.com/hashtag/NDP?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) photo op of the day- week, so far. #IPM(https://twitter.com/hashtag/IPM?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) #IPM2019CIL(https://twitter.com/hashtag/IPM2019CIL?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) #cdnpoli(https://twitter.com/hashtag/cdnpoli?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) #exln43(https://twitter.com/hashtag/exln43?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) pic.twitter.com/aFQLKkv2Ds(<https://t.co/aFQLKkv2Ds>)

- Abigail Bimman (@AbigailBimman) September 17, 2019(https://twitter.com/AbigailBimman/status/1174038809459208195?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

2:45 p.m. - The growing cost of Conservative campaign promises

National Post columnist John Ivison has filed from the campaign trail with Conservative leader Andrew Scheer and he's concerned about the cost of all these promises.

"He has skated around questions about how he will pay for this spending but he confirmed he has no plans to cut the Canada Child Benefit, which the Liberals enriched by 15 per cent for children under age one on Tuesday.

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Federal deficits are forecast to average \$15 billion a year through the next Parliament and Scheer's proposals add another \$8.3 billion a year when all measures are in place."

Read it here.(https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/election-2019/john-ivison-andrew-scheer-is-racking-up-the-spending-commitments-but-do-his-numbers-add-up?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1568745029)

1:58 p.m. - Rick Mercer not happy with Conservative Party

Rick Mercer says a Conservative candidate is distributing a meme featuring a photo of the comedian and a plea to "vote Conservative" and he's not happy about it. "Not true. All fake. Please stop," the comedian wrote on Twitter.

Dear @AndrewScheer(https://twitter.com/AndrewScheer?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) & good folks at @Cpc_hq(https://twitter.com/CPC_HQ?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) - Your candidate in Burnaby North Seymour is distributing a Meme on social media with my face and the words "Vote Conservative" indicating it is a quote from me. Not true. All fake. Please Stop. #WhoAreThesePeople(https://twitter.com/hashtag/WhoAreThesePeople?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)? #Cdnpoli(https://twitter.com/hashtag/Cdnpoli?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) #yuck(https://twitter.com/hashtag/yuck?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

- Rick Mercer (@rickmercer) September 17, 2019(https://twitter.com/rickmercer/status/1174019842216775681?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Update: The Conservatives say the post has been deleted.

1:00 p.m. - NDP not happy about People's Party debate invitation

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh says he is troubled by the recent decision to include the People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier in the federal leaders' debates on Oct. 7 and Oct. 10.

In a letter to the debate commission, Singh accused Bernier of recruiting racists to run for his party and for peddling conspiracy theories.

Singh also criticized Bernier for attacking 16-year-old **climate activist** Greta Thunberg, which Bernier subsequently backtracked(<https://election.ctvnews.ca/bernier-on-greta-thunberg-immigration-and-more-in-wide-ranging-interview-1.4594115>) on.

10:20 a.m. - Scheer promises to boost RESP grant

Conservative leader Andrew Scheer promised to increase the government's contribution to RESPs by boosting the maximum annual grant from 20 per cent to 30 per cent, with the maximum contribution rising from \$500 to \$750 per year.

At a press conference in Winnipeg on Tuesday, Scheer said that a couple who contributes \$50 each month to their child's RESP will receive about \$1,080 more than they would currently receive, over the lifetime of the fund.

The plan also allows low-income parents to receive a 50 per cent contribution on the first \$500 they contribute to an RESP, compared to the current contribution of 40 per cent.

9:40 a.m. - A stop for poutine on the campaign trail

A clip of Liberal leader Justin Trudeau buying poutine for CBC reporter David Cochrane at a campaign stop yesterday is making the round on social media.

"The Liberal Party always supports the CBC," Trudeau joked.

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"The Liberal Party always supports the CBC," Justin Trudeau jokes as he gives a CBC journalist an order of poutine while on the campaign trail Monday.

More #elxn43(https://twitter.com/hashtag/elxn43?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw) coverage:
<https://t.co/ir9WSRTwJM>(<https://t.co/ir9WSRTwJM>) pic.twitter.com/WoSEKNwc2A(
<https://t.co/WoSEKNwc2A>)

- Globalnews.ca (@globalnews) September 17, 2019(
https://twitter.com/globalnews/status/1173764226286010368?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

9:00 a.m. - Trudeau announces boosted child benefit for infants

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau announced a plan to boost the Canada Child Benefit by 15 per cent for children under the age of one. The party estimates that it could give families up to \$1,000, depending on how much they qualify for the income-tested benefit.

Trudeau also announced a plan to move toward tax-free maternity and paternity benefits and increased benefits for adoptive parents. The Conservatives also announced(<https://www.conservative.ca/andrew-scheer-to-make-ei-maternity-benefits-tax-free/>) a plan to reduce the tax burden on maternity and paternity benefits.

8:45 a.m. - Singh touts candidate in McKenna's riding

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh was in downtown Ottawa this morning boosting Emilie Taman, the party's candidate to take on Environment Minister Catherine McKenna.

Singh also spoke about the party's housing affordability plan, which involves spending \$5 billion in the first year-and-a-half of government to eventually create half a million new affordable units over 10 years. Singh also kept up the NDP's sustained attack on the Liberal housing policy.

"More of those pretty words, acknowledging the problem. But when it comes to the actual solving of the problem, just empty promises," said Singh.

8:30 a.m. - Trudeau heads east, while Scheer spends the day in Winnipeg

Liberal leader Justin Trudeau will be in St. John's this morning for a policy announcement and media availability at 9:30 a.m. local time. He heads to P.E.I. in the evening for a rally.

Conservative leader Andrew Scheer is in Winnipeg this morning where he will make a policy announcement and take questions from reporters at 9 a.m. local time.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh will be in downtown Ottawa this morning to make an announcement about housing, before heading off to Sudbury for a town hall on affordability.

Green party Leader Elizabeth May will announce the party's platform on privacy rights in Waterloo at 11 a.m.

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<https://twitter.com/stuartxthomson>) !@COPYRIGHT=© 2019 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

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<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/election-2019/federal-election-2019-roundup-trudeau-announces-boosted-child-benefit-for-infants> (%)

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